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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1917.

Joffre, Superman

Hail to "Papa" Joffre, marshal of France! His country could have sent us no other representative to be counted on so surely to inspire admiration and affection in Americans. Indeed, we loved him before ever he came to us—the quiet, unassuming but masterful personality against which the voluble bluster of Teutonic egotism broke itself and was hurled back in the first agony of defeat.

Here is a man who can hold his tongue—characteristic, truly, of a superman! His very silence should be an example enough to Americans to do, not to talk. In the presence of this great Frenchman can the United States hesitate to provide forthwith the soldiers required to finish the work which the poilus under his direction so gloriously began?

As to Signs of Peace

The tendency in the United States is naturally to exaggerate the significance of labor strikes at the Krupp and other munition works in Germany, of revolts in Hungarian cities, and of repeated desertions of Teuton troops en masse across the Dutch border. Such incidents are likely to make us overanxious of the early end of the war. It seems, sometimes, not too much to expect that Kultur, like Russian autocracy, may collapse over night.

Threats of a German offensive against troubled Russia give another aspect to the situation, however. A blow equal to putting the Slav power out of battle will mean grim work ahead for the American army now in the making, and plenty of it. Conversely, a frightfulness unable to break out with its old irresistibility in a spring drive somewhere will be an anomaly indeed. A Germany which cannot more than hold its own cannot actually hold its own.

Even so, and even if Turkish troops are not now being transported to the western front, as reported, the hope that the war will end in three months or six months or nine months appears somewhat exaggerated. The job of convincing Germany that she is beaten may take as much time and as great expenditure of strength as it took to beat her.

Prejudice and Experience

The Times published yesterday two interviews on the question whether the United States should try to raise an army by the volunteer system or by employing the selective draft. Speaker Clark was in favor of the first and Gen. B. M. T. Bridges, of the British army, favored the second method.

Speaker Clark spoke with the voice of tradition and prejudice. His argument is picturesque, but not convincing. The War Department is trying to build the country into a conscription system. The best armies we ever had were volunteer armies. I do not want to see my son conscripted. I favor letting the flower and youth of the country volunteer before fastening the disgrace of conscription upon them.

General Bridges spoke from actual and recent experience at the front. Twice wounded, decorated for courage on the field of battle, he cannot but think of the thousands of his comrades that were sacrificed while England was "muddling through."

The loss of so many men at the front who would have been of far greater value at home doing more than anything else to bring about the adoption of selective conscription. We realized after a year's blundering that highly trained men should not be sent to the trenches to die and that the government should have the right to select the fighting men and those to be kept at home for industrial service, which is just as vital and necessary as maintaining an army in the field. We sent a great many men who would have made good officers into the trenches with guns on their shoulders.

Of the two men interviewed, one is no less concerned that America shall make no mistake in raising an army that may decide the issue of the war, than is the other. But Speaker Clark is where the British people were in 1914. "The best armies they had ever had" were volunteer armies, because they had never had any other kind. Many an English father "did not want to see his son conscripted." The English were also in favor of "letting the youth and flower of the country volunteer before fastening the disgrace of conscription upon them." That all sounded fine in England three years ago. The English know better now and are anxious that their American ally shall avoid their mistake.

As for Speaker Clark's son, it should be impossible for the Speaker of the House of Representatives to settle a question involving the destiny of nations by a purely personal consideration. The Speaker's son might relieve the situation by volunteering now either in the regular army or the national guard.

In former issues between the Pres-

ident and the Speaker, the President has won. If the Speaker had won on the Panama tolls issue we should now be ashamed before our allies. And the statement that "the disgrace of conscription" indicates a degree of mental obfuscation we are rather ashamed an important Government official should display before company.

The British general, after three years' of experience in raising armies in the present war, is right, and the civilian Speaker, who was too young for a part in our great war and perhaps is too old now to change traditional convictions, is wrong. That is all there is to it, except the opinion that the Speaker must have had an extra grudge on when the bearers of a petition for the Administration plan came to ask for his support.

A Republic Not Ungrateful

Those who are fond of finding historical coincidences are likely to recall the fact that one hundred and two score years ago, this day, on which General Joffre arrived in the Capital of the United States, the Marquis de Lafayette set sail from a port in Spain to tender his sword to the cause of the American Colonies. It was in the darkest days of the young Republic of the West, less than a year after the Declaration of Independence, that Lafayette arrived. It is not too much to say that his coming changed the course of modern history. His presence as a valued officer under Washington commended the revolutionary cause and our great revolutionary leader to French sympathy and French assistance. Followed the proffer of financial aid to a bankrupt American treasury and the sending of the French fleet to American shores, all culminating in the historic event in which Lafayette, Rochambeau, and Washington took part, which we commemorate as the siege and surrender of Yorktown.

From victorious America Lafayette returned to France filled with republican ideals, and joined the brilliant circle of liberal intellectuals who planned and carried through the French revolution. Lafayette was too conservative to have shared in the excesses of that revolution and had later himself to escape from the violence of its leaders. But when the revolution was won and France had achieved the proud position of the first nation of Europe, under Napoleon, Lafayette returned to the United States to prove the falsity of the proverb that speaks of the ingratitude of republics.

This historic day, when the Capital of the Nation is aflame with the spirit of admiration for French heroism and French patriotism as embodied in General Joffre, a hundred million hearts proclaim that this republic is not ungrateful to the nation that helped us into being. No visitor since the days of Lafayette could have been received with such undivided sentiment of loyalty and affection. The gallant soldier and intrepid commander who hurled back the invading Huns from the very environs of Paris itself, who has watched the slowly receding tide of that invasion as day by day greater areas of French soil are freed from the polluting presence of the enemy; whose very absence from his post as chief counselor of military affairs for France testifies the importance of his mission to the United States; received a welcome today that is in its utmost manifestations but a feeble effort to show what the hundred million who cannot be here are thinking in their hearts. We open wide those hearts to France. We place at the disposal of France and our other allies not only the treasures of wealth, which is the least we can give, but we tender our sons, numbering them by the million, if need be, where France could send us but a few thousand in the days of our adversity, to march on French soil, or on German soil, with the Stars and Stripes waving beside the Tricolor of France, until lawless tyranny has perished from the earth and democracy, whose feeble cause Lafayette so gallantly espoused a hundred and forty years ago, shall have enveloped the whole world.

Why do our amigos, the Mexicans, put up their oil tax 10 per cent and their gas tax only 5? Are they trying to encourage talk?

(Cret Plans Smooth working Censorship—Headline.)

"Invents" would be a better word. There never was such a thing before.

The Germans know twenty-eight ways of sinking ships and employed twenty-seven of them in sinking the Lebensfels in Charleston harbor. The twenty-eighth could not be employed, as there were no U-boats available.

Never mind about the canceling of the Army and Navy baseball game. This is the year of a real world championship contest.

"If we must have censorship," pleads a movie producer, "give us censorship with brains." When they get that maybe the managers will be radical enough to admit more brains into the censorship department.

American War Hero Back From France—Sweeney Bears Two Wounds and Legion of Honor Ribbon—Headline.

"Bears his blushing honors thick upon him!"

Don Marquis' Column

Add gardening hints: Wild oats may be sown on roof gardens.

Effect of war on English women. They will soon have the vote, but no longer interested in it—Headline.

How remarkably human human beings are.

CHANCE FOR AMBITIOUS YOUNG MORMON.

Want advertisement in the Oskaloosa Herald.

Moravian man to work on farm. No booze fighter nor fisherman wanted. The more children the higher the wages.

D. K. UNSICKER, Wright, Iowa.

WE NOMINATE HIM FOR PRESIDENT OF THE APTONYMIC CLUB.

Sir: His name alone ought to entitle him to admission, so I beg to nominate Hosea Waterer. That will get him the first degree. His claims for advancement to the second degree rest upon the added fact that he is a dealer in Plants, Bulbs, and Garden Seeds. His store in Philadelphia is located between Chestnut and Walnut streets on Seventh, which rounds out an association of ideas that ought to land him safely in the Third Degree of the Order of Aptonyms.

—J. S. A.

The "war menu" had been broken out violently on Broadway, and at some of the more patriotic lobster palaces it is now possible to obtain a ham sandwich and a glass of milk for only \$2.85. Boston Transcript.

That is, not counting the necessary gratuities to waiter, hat check boy, etc., etc.

DIES IRAE.

Thank God there still are battles, that man has still a soul.

And Europe beats her freedom out on St. Michael's falchion flashes and Joan's armor gleams.

Where France's flaming banner a blood red meteor streams.

St. George against the Dragon, St. Denis to the charge.

St. Michael in the van, with Joan by his side.

As Thor is stricken backward and reels with shattered targe.

While Death smites wide!

Thank God that man is more than all his hoarded gold.

And in the storm of death his faith and valor hold:

Thank God that peace is forging upon the anvil war.

And a people's trust and honor more than riches are.

For the soul of France has awakened and Joan leads the way:

The soul of France is marching in honor's white array.

The soul of France is voicing all the glories of her past.

The soul of France is chanting to the music of the blast.

The soul of France is singing to the thunder of the gale.

And Joan leads her legions in the lightnings of her mail.

St. George against the Dragon, St. Denis to the charge.

St. Michael in the van, with Joan by his side.

As Thor is stricken backward and reels with shattered targe.

While Death smites wide!

—CONDE B. PALLEN.

If you find hoofs and horns in the road, don't be too hard on the butler these days. —he is only trying to make both ends meet.

Who They Are.

Sir: I'm that pleasing, plump male who wears a belted overcoat with a front buckle.

—C. A.

Prohibition for the duration of the war is being strongly urged.

And, if the vast quantities of grain now used in the manufacture of food and whiskey are needed for stiffs, as they may well be, we are in favor of stopping the beer and whiskey and using the grain for food.

But the manufacture of beer and whiskey could be stopped without having absolute prohibition. There is our old friend the grape. If all people who drink beer and whiskey were switched to drinking wine the grain for the foodstuffs would be saved, the insides of the drinkers would be in better condition, the distillers and brewers might change over to handling the new tipple without a total loss and the grape industry would get a boom.

Perhaps if the part of the population addicted to drinking was put on wine for a couple of years it would never want to go back to whiskey again.

Also, there are millions of helpless apples raised in this country and butchered to make German Apple Cake every year, which, both for patriotic and gastronomic reasons, had a great deal better be made into cider. The German Apple Cake industry might suffer—but let it suffer! Let the German Apple Cake makers de-Prussianize themselves. The German Apple Cake can readily be Americanized into pie, anyhow, by adding a few more apples and a top crust.

As for the distillers and brewers, we haven't any great sympathy for them. If they can turn to making wine and cider, well enough. If they can't, they should all be rich enough to retire by this time anyhow. They have got all the money that several people we know were ever able to earn or borrow, and if they have been thrifty at all they must have saved some of it.

DON MARQUIS.

LETTERS TO TIMES FROM ITS READERS

Says Campaign for Increased Food Production May Defeat Its Own Ends.

TO TIMES READERS

The Times is receiving great numbers of letters from its readers.

No communication which does not carry the name and address of the contributor will be used, but both will be considered confidential if request is made.

Publication will not be made of letters on untimely subjects or religious questions. It will not publish abusive personal attacks nor criticism which The Times deems unwarranted by the facts as it knows them.

No record is kept of unpublished letters and none will be returned unless postage is inclosed.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

With the country facing a possible food shortage and the most urgent need for bumper crops, the campaign for increased production seems likely to defeat its own purpose by adding to the farmers' fear of overproduction.

On every side the farmers hear the slogan, "Raise more crops!" The newspapers and farm journals are full of the proposition to increase the acreage and yields, the city families are raising their home gardens, and the Boy Scouts are cultivating the parks and vacant lots. Is it strange that the farmer wonders what effect such "enormous production" will have on prices?

He doesn't realize that all this is largely talk or that it will result in wasted effort. What he sees is the danger of overproduction and low prices. He knows that he must pay an appalling price for labor, machinery, fertilizer, feeds, and seeds, but must take his chances, not only with crop failure, but with a possible demoralizing and falling market, and the very activities of the Agricultural Department and other agencies in the effort to increase production add to his fright.

With existing high cost of production and the uncertainty of returns, is it any wonder that he hesitates to increase his acreage? I have talked with many farmers in nearby Maryland and Virginia, and every one either refuses or hesitates to increase his crop production because he cannot afford to take chances on overproduction and resulting low prices. Many will raise less than last year.

Let the Government fix a minimum price for all staple non-perishable crops, say, for instance, \$1.75 per bushel for wheat, \$1 a bushel for corn, etc., and with this assurance the farmers will raise more than ever before. The available labor of the war munition and produce the bumper crops.

JOHN COULTER SMITH, Beltsville, Md.

Correct Way to Hang American Flag.

When Staff Is Not Used, Set Fourth by Correspondent.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

Please call attention to the correct way to hang our flag on building fronts, when no staff is used, as follows: When draped across the front, the blue field should always be on the left, as seen from the street; when hung down from a window, or balcony, it should be on the right. Numerous flags are incorrectly hung throughout the city. If any one doubts the above advice, consult the War Department or army regulations.

HENRY F. KING.

Denial of Burial in Arlington for Major Burke Causes Protest Against Injustice.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

I notice in reading one of the daily papers that a site for the burial of the remains of the late Major Burke in Arlington was refused. Because he had never served his country as an enlisted man, consult the War Department or army regulations.

Certainly there must be some mistake, for no one person could have done more for his country than he. But if this is true, something should be done to correct a great wrong and have a proper honor paid to one that is entitled to all that his countrymen might pay him.

Can you not lend your aid?

CONSTANT READER.

Suggests Cultivation of Land Around Site for New Eastern High School.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

You are waging a splendid campaign in the interest of city gardens. I wish to call your attention to a tract of fallow meadow land of about 250 acres lying from the jail west to perhaps Fifteenth street southeast and northeast and north to Benning road. Included in that tract is the recently purchased site for the new Eastern High School.

I know nothing about farming but it seems to me that such a vast tract could be plowed up and planted in oats or corn or wheat or some kind of fodder for the many District-owned horses if for nothing else.

C. B. LOWDER.

She Brands Confederate Reunion Postmarks as Pro-German Intrigue.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

Now that America has so plainly declared against disloyalty of any kind, it is ill timed, to use no harsher term, for the Government to cancel postage stamps with Confederate notations. It looks like pro-German intrigue to create division among the people. I protest against it, and wish my postage canceled in some other way.

MRS. H. V. BOYNTON.

A Statue Breaks Silence.

The bronze life-size statue of Lafayette: France gave you freedom, fought your fight; That you to France should pay your debt—

(What else be wrong?) is wholly right.

What you to seagirt England owe Let others say; my life declare That France, now smitten by her foe, With sword erst answered freedom's prayer.

Great Joffre, marshal of fair France, And Viviani must you give Heart-welcome, and within your lance Of love my country's soul shall live!

GEORGE WILLIS PATTERSON.

EXPLORED FAR UP AMAZON VALLEY

Dr. Rice's Wife First White Woman to Penetrate Wilderness.

NEW YORK, April 25.—Completing a voyage of exploration begun on November 15, 1916, and which resulted in discoveries of great value to science, Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Hamilton Rice and their party have arrived here on board the steam yacht Alberta, which Dr. Rice had chartered from the owner, Frederick G. Bourne.

The first stage of the voyage included a 2,100-mile trip to Iquitos, Peru, up the Amazon river, which is 1,100 miles farther than Commodore E. C. Benedict took his yacht the Onida several years earlier.

"After New Year Day," said Dr. Rice, "I started back, stopping at Manaus, which is 1,000 miles from the mouth of the Amazon. Leaving the Alberta at Manaus, we went on our tour of exploration up the Rio Negro in a forty-foot launch especially constructed for that purpose.

Movie Man Quit.

"In the launch besides Mrs. Rice and myself, the party included Dr. W. C. Councilman, of the Harvard Medical School; Dr. R. A. Lambert, of the Columbia Medical School; Dr. Ernest Howe, formerly of the United States Geological Survey; Earl F. Church, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey; J. W. Conson, wireless expert, and J. C. Cousins, of the Benhar Gas Engine Power Company, which constructed the launch, and who acted as engineer. We also had a motion picture photographer, who abandoned our party somewhat inopportunely.

"The launch was piloted by a white man who ever penetrated that almost inaccessible region of the South American Continent. She bore the hardships and dangers of the expedition most courageously, and was rewarded with a respectful order upon her by the native women. They knew me from my previous trips there, during the fifteen years of exploration which I have spent in those regions, and were untiring in their efforts to lend me assistance in their power. I speak their language, Tupi Guarani, which is the vernacular Indian means of communication throughout Brazil, from Paraguay to Venezuela.

Talked With Arlington.

"These Indians are a very hospitable and intelligent people. They would not accept money, but we took them presents of knives, fish hooks, jewelry, machetes, looking glasses and beads, and left them a goodly store of medicine, with instructions how to use them.

"One of the purposes of our exploration was to make a good hydrographic and geological map of the Rio Negro, to link up the work on which I have been engaged so many years—the making of a map of the northwest Amazon Valley. Another purpose was to test the practicability of determining the difference of longitude by wireless telegraph. To accomplish this we employed the Arlington station's signal using Washington as the primary meridian, being thus enabled to check up secondary and tertiary meridians.

"We carried a home made wireless apparatus constructed by Mr. Godley, of New Jersey, who has been in Brazil, and knew the requirement. It was simply wonderful to be able to be in those primeval forests thousands of miles away and receive from the Arlington station the tickings that spelled so much for science."

SOLE FIRE VICTIM BLAMED

Believed He Accidentally Set Big Jersey Plant Ablaze.

KEARNEY, N. J., April 25.—Two great torches, one to make appropriate candlesticks for the pyramids, have been burning for thirty-six hours at the partially razed plant of the Seaboard Bi-Products Company near here. They were huge tanks, each with nearly 100,000 gallons of oil inside, until the vast supply of oil is consumed the tongues of flame will continue to shoot skyward.

The tank-torches were lighted by the explosions and fire which wrecked half of the plant Sunday night, killing evidence developed yesterday tending to show that the only man killed probably started the fire accidentally. There is nothing to indicate that the explosions and flames were of incendiary origin.

LUMBERMEN GET READY

Prepare to Get Out Timbers for 1,000 Wooden Ships.

PORTLAND, Ore., April 25.—A mobilization, probably as important in the early stages of the war against Germany as the mobilization of the army or navy, is under way on the Pacific coast today. It is the gathering of men, money, and materials for the construction of hundreds of "sea jitneys," to be used to "bridge the Atlantic" and defeat Germany's submarine warfare.

Throughout the Pacific Northwest lumbermen, bankers, and shipbuilders are preparing for the construction of the 3,500-ton craft. Practical ship carpenters are being registered, materials gathered, sites selected for shipyards, and arrangements made to finance the venture. When word comes to start construction, Washington, Oregon, and North Carolina—the States which are expected to receive 70 per cent of the contracts for the 1,000 ships—will be found ready.

NOTRE DAME ALUMNAE DANCE

More than 100 persons attended the informal spring dance of the Notre Dame Alumnae Reading Circle in Gonzaga College Hall, last night. The reception committee included Miss Bernadette M. Brooks, Helen Doherty, Gladys Flannigan, Alice G. Kelly, Margie McAllister, Josephine McDonald, Margaret Sullivan and Hortense A. McGowan.

The officers of the circle, who were present, are: The Rev. George B. Kelly, moderator; Miss McGowan, president; Miss Esther Garner, vice president; Miss Alyse Foley, corresponding secretary; Miss Agnes Brosnan, recording secretary, and Mrs. James Hartnett, treasurer.

FREED MANIAC KILLS MAN.

CLEVELAND, Pa., April 25.—Fearing he would commit murder, Bartello Aveni a few weeks ago requested the police to put him in jail. They did so, and physicians pronounced him mentally unsound. He was taken to the city home, and yesterday noon a friend obtained his release. Today Aveni, while at Sam Cardelli's house, killed Cardelli.

EIGHT NEW CURTISS TYPES

Different Styles of Airplanes Tested. Better Than European Models.

Glenn H. Curtiss, K. B. Macdonald, Charles Kirkham, John Scott, and Fay L. Faure, of the Curtiss Aeroplane Company, have just returned from a trip to Newport News, where they saw the first flight and trials of the new Curtiss models.

"During one day," Curtiss said yesterday, "we flew eight different types of aircraft—two biplanes, a flying boat, three styles of hydro-aeroplanes, a large triplane and a small triplane speed scout."

All these are the result of the experimental work which Curtiss has been directing in Florida and at San Diego. The effort has been to develop American designed and built planes which would meet the best that Europe has developed. Apparently, Curtiss has succeeded. The speed scout made 120 miles an hour and climbed at the rate of 10,000 feet in ten minutes. That is a performance equal to the needs over the battlefield in France. It is expected that this speed scout will be even better when it has been equipped with a larger motor, now being installed.

Army and navy experts watched the trial flights. Correspondents who are familiar with aviation conditions abroad also visited Newport News. Several of these men expressed their conviction that these American-made machines are superior in design, workmanship, and performance to those they had seen in action at the front.

U. S. TO HAVE GREAT RADIO

Three-quarters of Globe To Be Spanned by Philadelphia Wireless.

PHILADELPHIA, April 25.—Preliminary work of construction of one of the most powerful wireless stations in the world has begun at the Philadelphia navy yard, according to an official announcement today. The construction of a huge hangar, which will house eight biplane hydro-aeroplanes is also under way.

The new wireless station will have a sending radius of approximately three-fourths of the distance around the globe, making possible direct communication with the Philippines and other insular possessions of the United States. The aerial structure will be more than 700 feet high.

WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

Today.

Twentieth anniversary banquet of League of American Writers, 8 p. m. The "Boy Preacher," Nelson Holder, 8 p. m. Annual conference of the National Farm and Garden Association, 8 p. m. Meeting of House of Commons, 8 p. m. Afternoon tea in charge of Susan R. Anthony League, National American Woman's Association, 103 Rhode Island avenue northwest, 44 p. m.

Debate between Georgetown and University of South Carolina, Georgetown Law School auditorium, Sixth and E streets northwest, 8 p. m. Meeting of volunteers of Associated Charities, 8 p. m. Annual conference of the National Farm and Garden Association, 8 p. m. Afternoon tea in charge of Susan R. Anthony League, National American Woman's Association, 103 Rhode Island avenue northwest, 44 p. m.

Uncensored talk on conditions in Russia, by Stanley Washburn, National Press Club, 8 p. m. Dance for benefit of mother of Chief Gunner's Mate Eppolou, who lost his life on Atter, Marine Barracks, Eighth and G streets southeast, 8 p. m.

Meeting of Washington Board of Trade, the New Willard, 8 p. m. Circus by Company A, 10th regiment, U. S. Army, Woodmen of the World, Fifteenth and H streets northwest, 8 p. m. "Chalk talk," by Will H. Chandlee, and address by Edward B. Clark on "War Work Men," by New York House of Representatives Country Club, Eighteenth street and Columbia, 8 p. m.

Meeting of the Rhode Island Avenue Suburban Citizens' Association, Sherwood Park, 8 p. m. Special meeting of delegates of Central Garden Committee, in offices of committee, 8 p. m. Meeting of members of Teachers' Club Rad Cross class, 608 Eleventh street northwest, 8 p. m.

Annual ball, Potomac Lodge, No. 7, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, National Union of National Farm and Garden Association, 8 p. m. Reception at Kendall Green, 8 p. m. Reception at home of Mrs. Macklin, 8 p. m. Reception at home of Mrs. Macklin, 8 p. m. Reception at home of Mrs. Macklin, 8 p. m.

Illustrated lecture, "The Electrical Equipment of the Automobile," by J. E. Eck, before Washington Automobile Club, N. A. S. E. 1204 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, 8 p. m. Monthly meeting of Rhode Island Avenue Suburban Citizens' Association, Sherwood Park, 8 p. m. Special meeting of delegates of Central Garden Committee, in offices of committee, 8 p. m.

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